(b) During 2005-06, ONGC, OIL and Private/Joint ventures companies have made discoveries in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat and Rajasthan. The offshore discoveries are in the Krishna Godavari Basin, North East Coast and Mumbai offshore areas. Reserves from these discoveries are under appraisal.

(c) State-of-the art technologies for Hydrocarbons exploration have been/are being inducted in the fields of seismic data processing interpretation as well as drilling.

Tax Holiday for Petroleum Projects

268. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Greenfield Petroleum Projects are eligible for a 7 years tax holidays;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the companies which are currently benefited by this;

(d) whether it is also a fact that some Indian Companies are exporting Diesel, Kerosene and LPG; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Greenfield Petroleum Projects are eligible for 7 years tax holidays under Section 80 IB (9) of Income Tax Act, 1961. It *inter alia* provides that 100% deduction of profit for a period of 7 consecutive assessment years including initial assessment year is available to undertakings which begin commercial production or refining of mineral oil in the northeast region before 1st April 1997 and to undertakings located in any part of India beginning commercial production of mineral oil on or after 1st April, 1997. Provided further that where an undertaking is engaged in refining of mineral oil, it begins refining on or after 1st October, 1998.

(c) Amongst the oil PSUs, IOCL, ONGC, MRPL, NRL, CPL have availed/are entitled to claim benefits under the Income Tax Act.

(d) and (e) India being surplus in refining capacity, amongst of the Public Sector Oil Companies IOCL, BPCL and HPCL have exported diesel during the year 2005-06.

Credit cards issued by IOC

269. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IOC has issued pre-paid credit cards for fuel and other services used by the transporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount that it has earned through these cards since these cards were introduced;

(c) whether this cards also provides additional services to the transporters which helps the transporters to use their fleet better; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a), (c) and (d) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) has reported that it has not issued pre-paid credit cards. However, it has issued Fleet Cards with a pre-paid and credit variant to the transporters for purchase of fuel and lubes through its Retails outlets. The card also provides services like tracking of vehicle through card swipe and MIS reports on fuel purchase.

(b) The Fleet cards were introduced in March, 2004 and an amount of Rs. 3361 crores has been transacted till 31.01.2006.

Promotion of Community Kitchen Scheme

270. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG based community kitchens set up by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) so far in Andhra Pradesh, village-wise, district-wise and company-wise;

(b) the names of the villages where these kitchens are proposed to be set up during the current year, district-wise; and